(b) whether Government are also aware that processed agricultural products like potato-chips and cornflakes are sold at exorbitant rates, while the farmers do not get even one-fiftieth of the market price of these processed products; and

(c) if so, whether Govemment propose to introduce a scheme to help farmers to store and process their produce to eliminate middlemen and business houses to stop them from exploiting the fanners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the fact that a strong and effective food processing sector plays a significant supportive role in diversification and commercialisation of supportive role in diversification and commercialisation of agriculture, improving value addition in the agricultural produce, employment and income generation and production of agro-food products for export, the Govemment has been taking various steps for formulation and implementation of policies and plans for the food processing industries, improvement of infrastructure, upgradation of technology activating domestic marketing, etc.

Prices of processed foods would include the cost of other inputs apart from raw material and these are not controlled. Prices of processed foods would also depend upon several factors such as supply and demand, marketing arrangements etc.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its plan Schemes extends financial assistance for propagating the concept of backward linkages between farmers and processors, promotion of post-harvest infrastructure, cold storage etc., setting up/modemisatior/expansion of food processing units, and establishment of food processing & training centres in rural areas for developing entrepreneurship with imported technology.

Audit/Survey of Implementation of JRY

*274. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any outside agency has audited or surveyed implementation of JRY in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the defects detected in the current pattern of implementation of JRY;

(d) whether Government have conducted any such survey in Andhra Pradesh also; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINSITER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. concurrent Evaluation on implementation of Jawahar Rozgar yojana (JRY) was carried out during January—December, 1992 covering 448 districts, 886 blocks, 4406 village panchayats and 21791 JRY worker-households in the country by 33 independent research institutions organisation. The survey of second round of concurrent evaluation for the year 1993-94 has also been completed. But its final report is not yet ready.

(c) The major findings of the concurrent evaluation carried out in the year 1992 are:

(i) Only 39% head of elected panchayats were exposed to training.

(ii) Only 20% women got employment.

(iii) Action Plans were not discussed in some of the Gram Sabhas in some States.

(iv) Roughly 43% of the works were delayed due to shortage of funds in the village panchayat.

(v) In some, states there was disparity in the average wages paid per manday to a male and female unskilled worker.

(vi) Of the workers who participate in JRY works, roughly 57% had an annual income of Rs. 6401/-and above and only 43% had an annual income below Rs. 6400/-.

Based on the findings of the concurrent evaluation and the experience gained in the implementation of JRY necessary corrective measures are taken.

(d) and (e) The concurrent evaluation was carried out in all the states including Andhra Pradesh. However, the concurrent evaluation of JRY has not given state-wise finding.

Development of Wasteland

*275. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have finalised any common guidelines for developing the wasteland;

(b) if so, in what manner these guidelines are proposed to be implemented;

(c) what is the total area of wasteland in the country as on December 31, 1996; and

(d) what is the total area of wasteland converted into cultivable land during the last five years and the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated the guidelines for development of wastelands on watershed basis.

(b) These guidelines are implemented through the Panchayati Raj Institutions, District Rural Development Agencies and Project Implementing Agencies.

(c) No precise estimate of wasteland is available. National Remote Sensing Agency has done the mapping of wastelands in 241 districts. According to information available 35.65 million ha. wasteland is reported in these districts.

(d) The Department of Wastelands Development undertakes development of wastelands in non-forest areas aimed at checking land degradation, putting such wastelands to sustainable use and increasing bio-mass availability specially fuel-wood and fodder. Rs. 207.36 crores have been released under Integrated Wastelands Development Projects (INDP) for the development of about 2,38,000 ha. of wastelands during the last 5 years.

Oil Royalty to Maharashtra, Gujarat and Assam

*276. DR. GOPALRAO VITHAL-RAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any royalty for off-shore oil is given to Maharashtra Govemment; if so, the amount thereof during the last three years;

(b) how much royalty is given to Guja-rate and Assam for off-shore and on shore oil; and

(c) wheher there are any guidelines to determine the royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Royalty in respect of crude oil produced from offshore areas is payable to the Central Government. Amount of royalty on crude oil paid to Gujarat and Assam in respect of onshore production during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. crores)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Gujarat	306.72	320.41	327.16
Assam	239.87	254.15	250.99

(c) Royalty on crude oil and natural gas is governed by the provisions of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959.